THE CRAFTSMAN.

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—— *Alter & idem.*

ALL Propoſal's, which ſeem really calculated for the Good of the People, either by promoting any valuable Branch of Trade, or eaſing them of any burthenſome Tax, being generally received by them in a grateful Manner; and the only Deſign of this Paper having been to diſcourage all *unneceſſary Expences*, as well as to detect every Species of *Corruption*; it is not to be doubted that my Readers will be highly pleaſed to ſee my Practice conformable to my Doctrine; and that I am reſolved, upon all Occaſions, to contribute my utmoſt Aſſiſtance, towards reducing the *national Expences*, at this chargeable Seaſon, by publiſhing my Paper but *once a Week*; eſpecially, ſince I hope that I ſhall lighten the Bur-

Burthen of the *Subject*, without diminiſhing the Revenues of the *Crown*. For tho' I can, with great Truth and Pleaſure, reflect that I find no Alteration in the Opinion of the Town concerning my Writings, as far as I can form any Judgment by common Diſcourſe, or the Sale of them; though, with equal Concern, I muſt obſerve that I can foreſee no Probability of my wanting ſufficient *Matter* to continue them as often as I have hitherto done; and though I am firmly reſolved not to ſlacken my Zeal in the Intereſt of my Country and the Cauſe, which I have undertaken; yet I have been induced, by ſeveral Reaſons, to appear in this Manner.

In the firſt Place, as I muſt expect that the Receſs of Parliament will carry a great Number of my Readers out of Town into different and diſtant Parts of the Country; ſo I am not unacquainted with the Difficulties and Inconveniencies, which they will meet with, in having my Papers regularly convey'd to them, from Time to Time, as they have been hitherto publiſh'd; whereas they will eaſily find their Way, once a Week, into moſt Parts of *Great-Britain*, in the ſame Manner that other *Journals* and *News-Papers* do.

For this Reaſon I have thought fit, by and with the Advice of my *Bookſeller*, *Printer*, and *Publiſhers*, to convert the *Craftſman* into a *Weekly Journal*, and ſubjoin to my uſual Diſſertations, which ſhall be continued in the ſame Manner, a faithful Account of all Occurrences *foreign* and *domeſtick*; for tho', during the *Seſſion* of *Parliament*, which detains the greateſt Part of the Nobility and Gentry in Town, where they are themſelves at the Fountain-head of all Intelligence, there did not ſeem to be any great Neceſſity for me to trouble either them or myſelf with ſuch Narrations; yet being determin'd to continue my *political* and *moral Eſſays*, I thought it proper, at the ſame Time, to accommodate my Readers, whilſt in the Country, with all Tranſactions both publick and private,

private, at home and abroad; which I doubt not will be kindly received on many Accounts; and particularly, as it will ſave Thoſe, who take in this Paper, the Expence of ſome others, in which they can expect to find nothing but the moſt *abject*, *ill-tim'd Flattery*, *mercenary Falſhhoods*, and *political Legerdemain*.

Indeed, I have been often tempted to ſomething of this Nature before, by obſerving the ſhameleſs and abandon'd Manner, in which ſeveral Writers have garbled the publick Accounts, in order to ſerve certain, private Ends, which can be no Secrets to the World; and the only Reaſon, which has hitherto diſſuaded me from it, hath been the groſs, palpable and bare-fac'd Method of their doing it; which I apprehended could not impoſe on any Man of common Senſe and Underſtanding.

But being, at length, determin'd to this Undertaking, for the Reaſons before-mention'd, I have choſen to diſtinguiſh it from other Papers of the ſame Kind by the Name of The COUNTRY JOURNAL; in which the Reader may depend on the moſt faithful, genuine and authentick Account of all Occurrences, whether our Fate be *Peace* or *War*, without any Diſguiſe, Miſrepreſentation or party View whatſoever; for as the only rational End of ſuch a Paper is to ſet every Thing, that paſſes in the World, in a true Light, I conceive it would be much better for the World to receive no Account at all of theſe Matters, than to have them related in ſuch a *falſe*, *partial* and *ſophiſticated* Manner.

But, though my Deſign be to adhere ſtrictly to Truth my ſelf, as well as to correct the Miſtakes and expoſe the Falſhoods of others, yet I cannot pretend to be *infallible*; for as I ſhall be often obliged to mention current Reports, and the Opinions of Mankind concerning Things, which are in Agitation, as well as to relate what ſhall have actually happen'd; as there are ſeveral falſe Rumours and fictitious Articles.

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of Intelligence trumpt up, almoſt every Day, by *Stock-jobbers* and *others*, in order to carry on private Views; and as ſeveral *foreign News-Papers* may be reaſonably ſuſpected, as well as ſome of ours, of being written under *Influence* and *Direction*, ſo it will be abſolutely impoſſible for me to preſerve my ſelf, at all Times, free from wrong Surmiſes, Errors and Impoſitions.

All therefore that I can either promiſe or propoſe is, to make the ſtricteſt Scrutiny into the Truth of what I hear, and what I read; to aſſert nothing for *Fact*, but what I certainly know, or firmly believe to be ſo; to mention *Rumours*, only as *Rumours*; to form *Conjectures*, only by way of *Conjectures*; and to relate every Thing, according to the beſt Information I can receive, without *Hopes* or *Fears* from any Man, as becomes an impartial Lover of Truth and his Country.

In *foreign Affairs*, either with Regard to the Operations of the *Field*, or the Intrigues of the *Cabinet*, I ſhall not only conſult all the publick Prints both at home and abroad, but likewiſe compare them with thoſe *private Intelligences*, with which I have taken Care to be conſtantly ſupplied; and extract, from both Theſe, ſuch Materials for this Paper, as ſhall ſeem moſt agreeable to Truth, Reaſon or Probability.

In Matters of a *domeſtick Nature*, my Bookſeller hath provided a Perſon, who, I hope, will have the ſame Regard to Veracity; tho' he may ſometimes treat them in a different and more diverting Manner than others; and will now and then, in a Dearth of News, entertain the Publick with ſuch little Pieces of Wit and Humour, either in Verſe or Proſe, as may be occaſionally handed about the Town; or with which our Correſpondents ſhall, at any Time, oblige us.

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As I have always paid the utmoſt Regard to the *fair Sex*, and am reſolved to let ſlip no Opportunities of entertaining them, in the moſt agreeable Manner, conſiſtent with that good Breeding, which is due to them, and that Decency, which becomes a Man of my Years, I cannot in the leaſt doubt of their good Opinion and candid Acceptance of my Writings.

In ſhort, nothing ſhall eſcape my Notice, that falls within the Province, which I have now undertaken; nor will I ſpare any Endeavours to recommend my ſelf to the Favour of all Perſons, of both Sexes, and of every Party; except *Thoſe*, whom I ſhall eſteem it no diſhonour to diſoblige.

It may, perhaps, raiſe the Wonder of ſome People, that a Man of my Age, Character and Fortune ſhould condeſcend ſo far as to proſtitute his Name at the Head of a *common News-Paper*; to which I reply, that ſince I have been provok'd and, in a Manner, call'd up to this Undertaking, by the unexpected Conduct of *ſome Men*, I think my ſelf obliged to go thro' with it, and wear out the Remains of my Life in any Manner, which I apprehend will be ſerviceable to my Country. Beſides, I cannot help obſerving, that however mean or contemptible the Buſineſs of a *Journaliſt* may have formerly been; yet, of late Years, it ſeems to have been a Poſt of great *Credit* and *Honour*; nor can I poſſibly ſee any Reaſon why I may not, without any Diſreputation, hold the Property of a JOURNAL, *in Commendam*, as well as another.

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